

vote does not only mean that the one casting the ballot can go unmolested to the place where the ballot is cast and cast it without molestation. It means that the person has the right to vote for whomever he or she chooses. So let's say that people would write in a person's name, and that person would get more write-in votes than anybody on the ballot, based on Senator Beutler's requirement, the public's will would be frustrated and that person could not take the office. To my surprise and chagrin, a few years ago, a man named Al Veys won the mayorship of Omaha as a write-in candidate. So there are important positions that people do win on the basis of write-ins. That is not the main and only argument. What I think it boils down to is this, the Constitution established certain positions and minimal requirements to hold those positions. It is one thing for the Legislature to say as a requirement you should be outside the Penitentiary, in some cases a certain age in order to hold this office, but to place a candidate or potential candidate at the whim of a board, and maybe a national association that set standards for that profession before he or she can hold an office in the State of Nebraska. You see that the Bar Association, which is a private club authorized by the court and which a person must belong to to practice law, does not do a very good job of ensuring that people who are called lawyers do a good job for their clients. Placing the requirement that a person be a CPA is not going to ensure competency, it is not going to ensure anything when it comes to the proper administration and operation of an office. Many people who are formally trained in a given occupation are not good administrators. Some offices require merely administrative ability. I hope that you will vote to defeat Senator Beutler's motion...or this committee amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Beutler, then Senator Labedz.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I discussed with you a little earlier what I am trying to do with regard...or what this amendment means with regard to educational and experience requirements. I wanted to describe to you a little bit now the more important point, the far more important point that is the applicability of standards of accounting performance and ethics to the Public Auditor. I don't want the auditor to be a CPA just for the educational and experience background. That is good, but that is not the reason that I really want it. The reason